



Agriculture News

Yellowstone County Extension

December 2008

<http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.us/extension/ag/>

TO: Farm & Ranch Businesses

FROM: Steve Lackman

Yellowstone County Agricultural Agent

A Message From Steve

This newsletter highlights some great opportunities in January for Private Pesticide Applicators to obtain recertification credits. Check out the newsletter segment titled "MSU Pesticide Education". Remember, it's the private applicator's responsibility to accumulate 6 recertification credits prior to our region's (Region V) deadline which is 2012. You can also look online at www.pesticides.montana.edu, select Region V and view the locations where you may obtain recertification credits. Please remember to bring your applicators license (private applicator license numbers end in "-11") to the recertification classes.

2009 Sugarbeet Symposium

WHEN: Monday, January 12 and Tuesday, January 13, 2009

WHERE: Billings Hotel and Convention Center

Monday, January 12, 2009

11:00 - 1:00 Registration

12:00 - 1:00 Soup and sandwich luncheon in exhibit area

Room 1 Moderator & Welcome: Bryan Fandrich, Western Sugar

1:00 - 1:45 Biofuels - where are we going? Joel Schumacher, MSU

1:45 - 2:30 Fertilizer prices: Global demand and outlook for Montana. Tom Jensen, International Plant Nutrition Institute

2:30 - 3:00 Alternative crops for the Yellowstone Valley. Ken Kephart, MSU-SARC

3:00 - 3:30 Coffee break in exhibit area

3:35 - 4:10 Outlook for Commodity Prices. Gary Brester, MSU

4:10 - 4:35 Weed control options for irrigated wheat, corn, barley and dry beans. Steve King, Bayer Crop Science

4:35 - 5:00 Disease management for dry beans. Barry Jacobsen, MSU

Adjourn to Trade Show

Room 2 Moderator & Welcome: Steve Lackman, MSU Yellowstone County Ag Extension Agent

1:00 - 1:30 Managing diseases in irrigated wheat and barley. Bill Grey, MSU

1:30 - 2:00 Managing insects in corn, dry beans, wheat and barley. Kevin Wanner, MSU

2009 Sugarbeet Symposium (cont'd)

Room 2 (cont'd) Monday, January 12

- 2:00 - 2:30 Where does strip tillage fit in Montana irrigated crops? Bart Stevens, USDA/ARS
- 2:30 - 3:00 Optimizing your returns from irrigation. Kent McVay, MSU
- 3:00 - 3:30 Coffee break in exhibit area
- 3:30 - 4:10 Optimizing return from your fertilizer investment: broadcast, banding, fertigation.
Clain Jones, MSU
- 4:10 - 5:00 Fertilizer prices: Global demand and outlook for Montana. Tom Jensen, International Plant
Nutrition Institute
- Adjourn to Trade Show

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

- 7:00 - 8:00 Registration
Moderator: Ryan Gompert, Syngenta Seeds
Welcome: Andy Steiger, Western Sugar Cooperative
- 8:00 - 8:45 Technology, research, and the future of Montana sugarbeet production. Gary Brester, MSU
- 8:45 - 9:25 Managing nitrogen inputs to optimize grower returns and factory efficiency. Bart Stevens,
USDA/ARS and Steve Godby, Western Sugar
- 9:25 - 10:00 Sugarbeet irrigation. Caryn Agee, Washakie County Soil Conservation District
- 10:00 - 10:30 Coffee break in trade area
- 10:30 - 11:15 Sugarbeet seed treatments for disease and insect control. Barry Jacobsen, MSU
- 11:15 - 11:50 Round Up Ready: Using and keeping the technology. Steve King, Bayer Crop Science
- 12:00 - 1:15 Luncheon: Luther Markwart, American Sugarbeet Growers Association
- Moderator: Ken Kephart, MSU-SARC
- 1:25 - 2:00 Where does strip tillage fit in MT and WY sugarbeet production? Bart Stevens, USDA/ARS
- 2:00 - 3:00 Where do beets and cane fit in the biofuel discussion. Cliff Bradley, Montana Microbials
- 3:00 - 3:30 Coffee break in trade area
- 3:30 - 4:15 Sugarbeet disease management. Barry Jacobsen, MSU
- 4:15 - 5:00 Now that we have Round Up Ready what's on the horizon for other transgenic traits?
Molly Cline, Monsanto

**For Fact Sheets and General Ag Information Specific to
Yellowstone County,**

Please refer to our web page at:

<http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/ag/>

Rural Registration for Help Flight

As a public service, the St. Vincent Healthcare's HELP Helicopter is available for you, the private citizen who is isolated from adequate emergency medical care. In the event of a serious accident or illness, a fully equipped emergency helicopter with a specially trained flight crew will respond to your telephone call and transport the injured to an emergency care facility.

St. Vincent offers you an opportunity to register, free of charge, your rural location by address, geographic location, GPS coordinates and Township, Range and Section, all of which can assist HELP flight quickly respond to your emergency. The registration information card will be kept on file by the HELP Flight Service and accessed only if you call.

If you would like to have a Rural Registration Packet mailed to your home, please contact the St. Vincent Flight Team Communication Center at 406-237-4357.

MSU Pesticide Education

For those of you who have a Private Applicator Pesticide License, you can access the list of pesticide recertification classes which offer credit toward your mandatory 6 recertification credits that you must obtain during the 5 year recertification cycle. To view upcoming recertification classes visit:

<http://www.pesticides.montana.edu/PAT/index.html> With your mouse, select Region 5 to view the classes available in Yellowstone County.

There are opportunities to obtain up to 3 recertification credits by attending recertification classes at the Sugarbeet Symposium in Billings on January 12 (1 credit class) & 13 (2 credit class).

Each day you can earn two recertification credits by attending these classes (in class room B) at the Ag and Construction Expo in Billings:

January 8th - 10:45 a.m. Law and Regulations, Rande Roth, MT Dept. of Ag
11:30 a.m. Rodent Control - Pocket Gophers & Ground Squirrels, Monte Sullins, Dept. of Ag

January 9th - 11:15 a.m. Record Keeping, Rande Roth, Dept. of Ag
12:00 a.m. Weed ID, John Pfister & Steve Lackman, MSU Extension Ag Agents

January 10th - 10:45 a.m. Pesticide Labels, John Pfister & Steve Lackman, MSU Extension Ag Agents
11:30 a.m. Calibration, John Pfister & Steve Lackman, MSU Extension Ag Agents

Three recertification credits are available by attending the Montana Weed Control Association Annual Meeting January 12 - 14, in Billings. You must attend the full three days to obtain recertification credits.

The MSU Pesticide Safety and Education Program (PSEP) office publishes the Montana Pesticide Bulletin several times a year. If you would like to have the Montana Pesticide Bulletin emailed to you for free, contact the MSU PSEP office by email at: ctharp@montana.edu

New MSU Publication: An Introduction to the Principles and Practices of Sustainable Farming

Though there seems to be growing interest in adopting "sustainable" farm and ranch practices, there isn't a cut-and-dried recipe that ensures sustainability.

To help producers choose sustainable methods, county Extension agents and other Montana State University faculty recently summarized sustainable farming and ranching practices in a free fact sheet titled "An Introduction to the Principles and Practices of Sustainable Farming."

Upcoming Ag Events

2009 Ag Technology Expo: January 8 - 10, 2009 in Billings MetraPark Expo Center
www.agandconstructionexpo.com

2009 Sugarbeet Symposium: January 12 & 13, 2009 in Billings Billings Hotel and Convention Center
Registration forms available at www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/ag/

Harvesting Clean Energy Conference IX: January 25-27, 2009 in Billings
www.harvestcleanenergy.org/conference/

Oilseed & Biodiesel Production Workshop: January 28 & 29, 2009 in Billings 1-800-275-6882
www.ncat.org/special/oilseeds.php

Sustainable Farming (cont'd.)

The term sustainable agriculture has been used and interpreted in many ways and its interpretation is still evolving. Still, a common thread running through these definitions is that sustainable agriculture comprises site-specific ranching and farming practices designed to meet current and future needs for food, fiber, energy and ecosystem services including, but not limited to, soil conservation, clean water and biodiversity. Specifically, sustainable agriculture emphasizes production and food systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, energy efficient and improve the quality of life for both farmers and the public.

Sustainable agriculture does not rule out any particular technology and can be applied to large scale operations as well as small and niche market production. In other words, there is no pre-determined body of practices that by itself confers "sustainability." For example, the adoption of nitrogen-fixing cover crops, designing integrated pest management systems, practicing organic farming or implementing reduced or no-tillage systems does not guarantee sustainability. Sustainable agriculture does not mean the re-adoption of outdated production practices. Responsible use of newly developed technologies may play an important role in developing sustainable farms and ranches.

So, if no single practice by itself secures sustainability, what can be done to reduce the negative impacts of agriculture while maintaining or improving its productivity and sustainability?

In this publication, the authors argue that designing an economically viable, sustainable and productive modern agricultural system is based on enhancing the health of the land and rural communities and concentrating on long-term solutions rather than short-term treatment of symptoms. Transitioning to sustainable agriculture requires a series of steps such as becoming aware of the complexity of agroecosystems, adopting a systems-level and interdisciplinary perspective to farming and ranching, and aiming at maximizing many ecosystem services including yields, clean water and air, the presence of wildlife and other organisms valued by society, carbon sequestration, and recreation.

While there are still many things we need to learn, there are many success stories. Producers across Montana, along with students and researchers at Montana State University, have developed sustainable farming practices. This MontGuide provides several farming and ranching examples that illustrate how the use of these principles can help realize systems that are striving for sustainability.

To obtain a free copy of this MontGuide (MT200813 AG), contact Steve Lackman, Yellowstone County MSU Agriculture Extension Agent at 406-256-2828 or visit the Extension office. You may also go to the web at the Cropland Weed Management Website (<http://www.ipm.montana.edu/CropWeeds>), click on "Montguides and Technical Bulletins" and look for the title.
